



HR0627

LRB098 14482 GRL 49203 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Justice Rita B. Garman has been selected to be the next Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, continuing her remarkable career of service to her community and to the people of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman was chosen unanimously by her fellow justices to succeed Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride; she will become only the second female Chief Justice in the history of the Illinois Supreme Court when she begins her 3-year term on October 26, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman is a longtime Vermilion County resident; she currently lives in Danville; and

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WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman grew up wanting to become a lawyer, a goal that was encouraged by her late parents, Dr. Sheldon and Ellen Bell; and

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WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman served as valedictorian for her graduating class at Oswego High School in Kendall County; she was awarded several honors at the University of Illinois, where she attended a 6-year Commerce and Law program; and

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WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman received her bachelor's

1 degree in economics with highest honors; she later earned her
2 Juris Doctor degree with distinction from the University of
3 Iowa College of Law; and

4 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman began her legal career with
5 the Vermilion County Legal Aid Society, earning a salary of \$90
6 per week; she later served as an Assistant Vermilion County
7 State's Attorney, trying criminal and juvenile cases; and

8 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman began her judicial career as
9 an associate judge in Vermilion County in 1974; she was elected
10 to be a circuit judge in the 5th Judicial Circuit in 1986 and
11 served as Presiding Circuit judge in Vermilion County from 1987
12 to 1998, when she was assigned to the Illinois Appellate Court,
13 4th District; she was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court
14 the following year; and

15 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman was appointed to the Illinois
16 Supreme Court in February of 2001; she was later elected to the
17 Supreme Court for 10-year terms in 2002 and 2012; and

18 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman has actively participated in
19 hundreds of Supreme Court opinions, as well as the Court's
20 administration; she was also instrumental in the establishment
21 of a Special Court Committee on Child Custody Issues to ensure
22 that children's best interests are the primary focus in child

1 custody cases; and

2 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman is the longest-serving female
3 judge in the State and will be the first Chief Justice to have
4 served in virtually every judicial capacity in Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman is a member of the Illinois
6 State Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, the East
7 Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, the Central Illinois
8 Women's Bar Association, the Vermilion County Bar Association,
9 the Lincoln-Douglas Inn of Court, and the Illinois Judges
10 Association, which awarded her a Lifetime Achievement Award in
11 2007 and the inaugural Harold Sullivan Award for Judicial
12 Excellence in 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman continues to play an active
14 role in her community, participating in a wide variety of
15 events and serving as a member of the Danville Rotary Club, a
16 director emeritus of the Danville Symphony Orchestra and the
17 708 Mental Health Board, and a member of the Board of Directors
18 of the University of Illinois Alumni Association; and

19 WHEREAS, Justice Rita Garman and her husband, Gill, have 2
20 children and 3 grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we honor Justice Rita B. Garman for her long and exceptional
3 service to the people of Illinois and congratulate her and wish
4 her continued success in her new position as Chief Justice of
5 the Illinois Supreme Court; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Justice Rita Garman as an expression of our esteem
8 and respect.